



REMARKS

Claims 1-15 are rejected and pending. The Examiner has objected to the Abstract and the Drawings, which applicant has amended to obviate those objections.

Claims 1-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over Maudlin (U.S. Patent Publication 20040075697A1), which has an effective filing date of October 16, 2002.

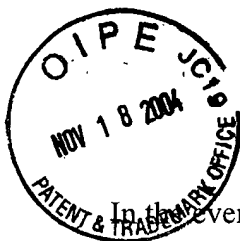
Applicants have submitted the Declarations of John W. Edwards and of the inventors of the present application to show invention prior to the effective filing date of Maudlin, and respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of all rejections.

The Declaration of John W. Edwards is a supporting statement by a witness to the invention process (MPEP 715.07 I) and evidences the conception of the invention by the inventors prior to the effective filing date of the Maudlin patent application and diligence reducing the conception to an actual product sold to a customer in mid 2003. Thus, the Declaration of John W. Edwards establishes prior invention coupled with diligence and actual reduction to practice (MPEP 715.07 III(B)).

The Declaration of the Inventors also confirms these facts. One of the Applicants was not available to sign the Declaration at the time this response was due, and a fully executed copy of the Inventors shall be forwarded as soon as it is received.

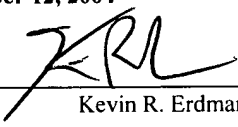
CONCLUSION

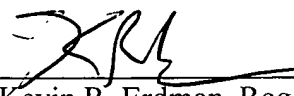
Applicants believe that the application, as amended, is now in condition for allowance and action toward that end is respectfully requested. If any issues remain that can be resolved by telephone, Examiner Faulk is invited to call the undersigned attorney.



In the event that Applicants have overlooked the need for an extension of time, an additional extension of time, payment of fee, or additional payment of fee, Applicants hereby conditionally petition therefor and authorize that any charges be made to Deposit Account No. 02-0390, BAKER & DANIELS.

Respectfully Submitted,

<p align="center">CERTIFICATE OF MAILING (37 C.F.R. § 1.8(a))</p> <p>I hereby certify that, on the date shown below, this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage for first class mail in an envelope addressed to the address above on the date indicated below.</p> <p>November 12, 2004</p> <p>By: <u></u> Kevin R. Erdman</p>
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By: 
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KRE:jk

Enclosures: Declaration Under 37 C.F.R. 1.131
Declaration Under 37 C.F.R. 1.132
Exhibit A
Copy of Submission of Corrected Formal Drawings
Return Postcard